

**RECORD OF DECISION TAKEN UNDER
DELEGATED AUTHORITY FROM
EXECUTIVE/COUNCIL/COMMITTEE
DELEGATED POWERS OUTLINED IN
THE CONSTITUTION**



DELEGATED OFFICER DECISION TAKEN BY:	Strategic Director of Children & Education (DCS)
DELEGATED BY:	Executive (EMD 09/11/23)
IN CONSULTATION WITH:	Executive Member
PORTFOLIO AREA:	Childrens Services & Education

SUBJECT: Youth Commissions Outcome report

1. DECISION

To award contracts to the following providers and move implementation stages on the following commission lots:

Lot 1 can be awarded to **Blackburn Youth Zone** who had a combined score of **66.80%**

Lot 2 can be awarded to **Blackburn Youth Zone** who had a combined score of **68.05%**

Lot 3 can be awarded to **Spring North** who had a combined score of **54.30%**

Lot 4 can be awarded to **Spring North** who had a combined score of **64.30%**

Lot 5 can be awarded to **Spring North** who had a combined score of **59.30%**

2. REASON FOR DECISION

2.1 INVITATION TO TENDER (ITT) AND EVALUATION PANEL

ITT Documents were prepared by YPS leads, with support from the Commissioning and Procurement team.

Evaluation panel consisted of:

Head of Partnership, Intensive Support & PP

Team Manager Young Peoples Services

Neighbourhood Manager

Public Health Development Manager

2.2 ITT PROCESS

Five commission lots were uploaded to the chest and there were 3 applicants in total.

Lot 1. 2 applicants

Lot 2. 1 applicant

Lot 3. 1 applicant

Lot 4. 1 applicant

Lot 5. 1 applicant

Evaluation panel scored all submissions and the highest scoring submission for each lot was as follows:

Lot 1 can be awarded to **Blackburn Youth Zone** who had a combined score of **66.80%**

Lot 2 can be awarded to **Blackburn Youth Zone** who had a combined score of **68.05%**

Lot 3 can be awarded to **Spring North** who had a combined score of **54.30%**

Lot 4 can be awarded to **Spring North** who had a combined score of **64.30%**

Lot 5 can be awarded to **Spring North** who had a combined score of **59.30%**

No provider was able to meet all requirements on initial evaluation however these were satisfactorily addressed through clarification. In regard to lots 1 and 2 clarification was sought and received in respect of staffing contingencies and policy and procedure management. In regard to lots 3, 4 and 5 clarifications was sought and received in regard to previous project management experience, delivery programmes, match funded contributions and policy and procedure management. Following clarification, scores were moderated to those listed above.

Decision for DCS is to award the contracts, move to contract implementation stage, finalising delivery programmes, contractual governance and associated timeframes.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 . EXECUTIVE SUMMARY from EMD submitted and approved on: 09/11/23

YOUTH COMMISSIONS

Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council have previously commissioned Blackburn Youth Zone (BYZ) and Blackburn Rovers Community Trust (BRCT) to deliver a town centre and a neighbourhood youth offer respectively. The total value of the commission was £320K, made up of £170k contributing to BYZ revenue budget and £150k to BRCT, which was match funded by the organisation from their existing Premier League Kicks funding.

Both commissions were up for renewal at end of March 2024

DEVELOPMENT 1 - STRATEGIC YOUTH ALLIANCE & YOUNG PEOPLES FOUNDATION

The Council's Young People's Services (YPS) has led the formation of a local youth alliance of 11 local organisations (including BYZ and BRCT) since 2019. The Strategic Youth Alliance (SYA) has been successful in securing funding, developing strategic plans and raising standards of youth work in the borough. The Network took the decision to become a charity infrastructure organisation from April 2023. The Young People's Foundation (YPF), named locally as 'Young BwD', will develop strategic plans, secure funding to match plan ambitions and develop expression of interest (EOI) and project management functions to use the strength of the SYA partnership to deliver high quality local provision.

DEVELOPMENT 2 - YOUTH INVESTMENT FUND

The Council, via YPS, has secured £4.583 million for the Local Authority - and over £8 million in new Youth Infrastructure across the borough alongside partners. The £4.583 million YIF funding will be split as follows with the balance earmarked for Project Management and Contract Support:

Darwen Youth Centre will receive £3.343 Million

Audley & QP Centre will receive £1.038 Million

The totals above are predominantly capital investment but also include revenue allocations to support 1 year's provision that will need governance around the delivery model and frontline activities.

In addition BYZ Fusebox has secured significant funding to develop an employability and wellbeing hub and Newground Together has secured funding to build a new youth hub in the heart of the Shadsworth community.

COMMISSIONING OPTIONS

Considering the available budget and the two developments listed above; a number of options were explored, which considered the value of the commissions, performance of current commissioned partners, demographics and evidenced need and whether the funding could be increased, reduced or commissioned differently.

Various delivery models were produced and deliberated that evidenced value for money and greatest impact from the commissions regarding providing opportunities, support and services to local young people based on current and future needs and demands.

3.2 COMMISSIONING DECISION

After deliberating the commissioning options, Executive board agreed to reduce the available commissioning budget to £240k – producing an £80k saving per annum for the council.

The model approved below is to develop a series of youth hubs across the following 5 areas with budget allocations as below:

Blackburn Town Centre	£60k
Darwen	£60k
Blackburn West	£40k
Blackburn East	£40k
Blackburn North	£40k

All Commissions to be procured on contractual terms of 2 years + 1 year - post review. Evaluation criteria will be developed by lead commissioning service leads, commissioning officers and agreed with the Head of Legal and Procurement and in consultation with the Executive Member for Children, Young People and Education.

Timescales to deliver the procurement may mean that officers seek a short extension of existing arrangement, subject to agreement of existing partners. Approval for this will be sought at the time in line with the Council's Contract Procurement Procedure Rules.

4. KEY ISSUES AND RISKS

4.1 Contract underperformance

Failure of Providers to fulfil contract specifications in regard to performance targets, staffing contingency or other. Failure in regard to sustainability of match funded delivery leading to a significant reduction in overall programme. Project management failures leading to poor performance and lack of confidence in provider.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Financial Commitment

Youth Commissions require £240k financial commitment per annum for a minimum of 2 years. £720k maximum contractual requirement.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Contracts

Provider contracts will be drawn up by the Strategic Commissioning Team and will be in a form approved by legal officers in Legal and Procurement team

6.2 Procurement

Procurement has been in accordance with Council Contract Procurement Procedure Rules.

7. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

7.1 Reductions in Finance

Any reduction in council financial commitment may affect delivery of frontline delivery of local services and effect confidence in the sector

8. OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

The alternative to awarding contracts would be to abandon the procurement and reconsider the commissioning strategy for these contracts.

9. CONSULTATIONS

Consultations in regard to complimentary income (YIF) listed in previous EMD Youth Commissions report.

All providers will be accountable for ongoing consultation work with YP who access the provision to ensure the offer is meeting the needs of its intended beneficiaries

10. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

All Declarations of Interest of the officer with delegation and any Member who has been consulted, and note of any dispensation granted should be recorded below:

VERSION:	1
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CONTACT OFFICER:	Jon McCaughey; Imran Akuji
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DATE:	04/03/2024
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BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:	EB Youth Commissions
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